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things. Among the facts easily capable of statistical discovery, in order to make possible a remedy, are those relating to retardation and withdrawals in both elementary and secondary schools.

With its wealth of systematized material, including well-selected bibliographies at the end of each chapter, and its progressive, scholarly viewpoint, the work will serve admirably as a text-book for normal school or college. And equally indispensable will it prove as a hand-book and work of reference for the school expert, for the social worker or the non-professional student of the child problem, and for the young teacher who would know the metes and bounds of the field wherein he has chosen to do his lifework.

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Ferrero, G. *The Greatness and Decline of Rome.* Translated by A. E. Zimmern. Four vols. Pp. 1350. New York: Putnam's Sons, 1907-1908.

Not since the publication of Mommsen's History of Rome more than fifty years ago has a work appeared in this field that has excited so much interest and discussion both among scholars and the public generally as Ferrero's new book. He does not treat in detail the earlier period covered by Mommsen, but after a brief survey of it in his first five chapters, begins his real narrative with Cæsar's *début* in politics. Yet these preliminary chapters indicate the peculiar method of the author and suggest the points wherein his treatment furnishes us with so important a contribution to Roman history. No long array of new facts is brought to light. This is not to be expected in a field where the sources are so scanty and have been so assiduously worked over by generations of scholars. But the material has been subjected to interpretation by one who comes to the task with an equipment and with interests quite different from those of the average historian. Ferrero began his career as a student of sociology and economics. He was known as a collaborator with Lombroso in an important work on criminology, *The Woman Criminal*, and as author of *Militarism*, *The Psychology of Symbolism*, etc., before he took up historical work. In fact, it was his interest in the problems of modern society and a desire to understand the workings of social forces in the past that first led him to make investigations in the field of Roman history. He approaches the task, therefore, in a somewhat different spirit from that of his predecessors, and his chief claim to consideration is that his interpretations are based on a greater variety of facts and bring into view the play of more complicated influences than is the case with other works on the subject. This is not to say that he has neglected the more immediate business of the historian to determine the truth of events and their sequence. He appears fully abreast with the most recent investigations of French and German scholars in this field, and is capable of rigid treatment in the use of the sources, as is seen in his handling of the letters of Cicero, but few writers have been at so much pains to show

the influence of intellectual, economic and social forces; to understand the significance of the literary activity of the time both as a cause and an effect of public sentiment; and to analyze and interpret the character of the individual actors in the drama so as to define and limit their influence on the progress of events.

It is, in fact, in the psychological analysis of the chief figures of Roman history that one of the most important features of the work lies. It is here that a curious contradiction may be noticed between the earlier and later volumes, between the author's theory and his practice. He holds firmly to the view that the individual counts for little or nothing in determining the course of events. "Human history," he says, "like all other phenomena of life and motion, is the unconscious product of an infinity of small and unnoticed efforts"; and he has applied the theory to Cæsar, in the first two volumes, to correct the exaggerated hero-worship of Mommsen and to reduce the destroyer of the old Roman constitution to human proportions and make him more comprehensible. On the other hand, Ferrero clearly indicates that the history of the last years of the Republic was dominated by Cæsar's genius, and that his views and plans determined the whole subsequent career of Antony; while the peculiar character and personality themselves of Augustus fixed the form of the new government after Actium. Had Augustus possessed the genius and energy of Cæsar or the restless ambition of Antony, the subsequent history of the empire would have followed quite different lines. Thus in his actual treatment of events Ferrero somewhat modifies his fatalistic theory and successfully holds the balance between the spirit of the age, the "unconscious product of unnoticed efforts," and the action and reaction of great personalities thereupon.

As a socialist, Ferrero seeks a thoroughly materialistic interpretation of history and finds in economic forces the final explanation of the growth and decline of Rome. The narrow, aristocratic and agricultural society of ancient Rome was broken up and transformed by the coming in of a mercantile era following the destruction of Carthage. The old discipline disappeared before the new wealth and luxury, as did the agricultural organization of Italy. Wealth accumulated in a few hands, but not always in those of the old aristocracy. The new standards of life required new conquests to maintain the flow of wealth to the centre and thus a deliberate imperialistic policy was forced upon the leaders to meet the needs of the Italian population. The discontent of those excluded from their share of the plunder furnished the support for revolution and the old constitution was overthrown. The decay and exhaustion that accompanied the civil wars led ultimately to the establishment of an equilibrium between Italy and the provinces. Industry was revived in the peninsula in new forms and a long era of comparative peace came in with the empire. At the same time new elements of discord were being introduced through a deep but silent social transformation that was taking place—the orientalizing of the West. Greek culture, the luxurious civilization of the East, better suited the new materialistic society and gradually conquered the West in spite of much opposition until finally a uniform orientalized culture pervaded the whole empire, ac-

counting, among other things, for the spread of Christianity. Finally the West and East began once more to differentiate, the two parts of the empire fell apart and this tendency found expression in the reorganization of Diocletian. Thereafter the West went its own way to the Middle Ages, and at this point Ferrero proposes to bring his work to a close.

The four volumes that have so far appeared in English translation (the translation of the fifth and last volume to appear, as yet, in the original is promised for this spring) bring the history down only to the year 23 B. C. A work on such a scale and one, moreover, that is so permeated with the individual theories of the author, has naturally given rise to great controversy. It has been received with much enthusiasm in France, with more reserve in Germany and, strange to say, has found its most bitter opponents among the writer's own countrymen. It is the general opinion, however, that the work is a most important contribution to our knowledge of Roman history and it steadily improves as it goes on, the author showing a constantly increasing command of his sources and mastery of historic method. So, too, his interpretations seem to become less *a priori* opinions in support of which facts are cited than conclusions flowing naturally from a narrative told for its own sake.

Few will lay down the work without feeling that it has thrown light on many obscure points in the period. An English scholar has spoken of the book rather contemptuously as merely a series of brilliant guesses regarding the history of Rome. In a sense this is true. In the same sense it is equally true of all the good histories of Rome ever written. The sources for the elucidation of the period are so meagre that anyone who undertakes to write its history is compelled to fill in the innumerable gaps in our direct knowledge by conjecture and inference regarding many events and the probable forces at work. What distinguishes the work of Ferrero is precisely the brilliancy of his guesses—the satisfactory manner in which they make the epoch live again. So far, they suggest to the mind a fairly adequate explanation of the building up of the Roman empire and the overthrow of the republican constitution.

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Henderson, Charles R. *Industrial Insurance in the United States.* Pp. 429. Price, \$2.00. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1909.

Although this volume is in the main an English version of a German book on this subject much new matter has been added. As far as possible it is an up-to-date discussion of the history and problem of industrial insurance—a piece of work badly needed because of the absence of recent literature on the subject.

The author, in a single chapter, surveys industrial insurance in Europe and Australia, giving a brief description of the different systems in vogue, and the present tendency toward insurance in Great Britain. In discussing